

SJI School District No. 149

Proposition No. 1 - Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy

The Board of Directors of San Juan Island School District No. 149 adopted Resolution No. 21-010 concerning this proposition to levy taxes. This proposition would authorize the District to levy the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, to support the District’s educational programs and operational expenses not funded by the State of Washington including instruction, special education, and operational expenses, an expenditure plan of which has been submitted and approved by the Superintendent of Public Instruction:

Collection Year	Estimated Levy Rate per \$1,000 of Assessed Valuation	Total Amount
2023	\$0.6770	\$2,787,082
2024	\$0.7251	\$2,984,965
2025	\$0.7766	\$3,196,897
2026	\$0.8317	\$3,423,877
Should this proposition be approved?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes		
<input type="checkbox"/> No		

Argument For

The Educational Programs and Operations (EPO) Levy is the local property tax that supports our public school’s programs not funded by the state. 100% of this tax stays in our community.

Voters are asked to renew this levy every four years. This is not a new tax. The current levy expires in December 2022. The structure of this levy is based on student enrollment. The level requested in this levy will provide for growth in enrollment over the next four years and cover any potential legislative increases in the state’s allowable per student amount. If enrollment does not increase, or the per student level is not raised by the state, the district may only collect qualifying amounts, not the entire request.

Our district is dependent on this local levy to continue with excellence in public education from kindergarten to 12th grade. The levy pays for approximately 16% of existing programs and is essential to maintaining quality instruction and programs that are necessary for a well-rounded, comprehensive education for our community’s children. This levy also supports Counseling, Nursing services, para-educators, office staff, transportation, food service, technology, specialized teachers for art and music, classroom teachers necessary to maintain lower class sizes, and health and safety measures for our schools.

If this levy does not pass, our school district will lose over \$2 million from the \$13.5 million budget, severely reducing existing programs. Please vote yes for Proposition 1. We need your vote to support our public schools and our children’s future.

Written by Committee for the Support of SJI School District Levies and Bonds

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Brian Moore
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Explanatory Statement

Written by SJI School District No. 149

RCW 84.52.030 authorizes school boards to propose local levies to assist in the funding for school operations and programs within the district. The Board of the San Juan Island School District (the “Board”) has proposed a four year levy to replace a levy that expires in 2022 based upon the statute.

The revenue from the levy will be used to fund activities in the school district as authorized by the statute, which is termed “enrichment funding” for the district. The Board has great flexibility to identify the need for such funding. In each of the next four school years, the Board has determined that the State contribution to the school’s general fund will be insufficient to pay for necessary programs and operations to properly meet the needs of students. The Board has identified necessary expenses for instruction, special education expenses and operations as appropriate for the levy. An Enrichment Levy expenditure plan has been submitted to and approved by the Office of the Secretary of Public Instruction.

If adopted, the taxes will be collected based upon the prior year’s final enrollment times the per student amount authorized by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, not to exceed the total levy amount approved by the voters. The levy rate (expressed per thousand dollars of property value) will then be set based upon the value of property in the district. An estimate of the amount of collections and the levy rates has been made in the ballot title, but the actual amount and rate each year will be based upon the property values in the assessment year. The revenue will be applied each year as part of the budget approved by the Board.

A “yes” vote approves the imposition of the levy, as described. A “no” vote opposes the imposition of the levy.

Argument Against

In 2018, the McCleary Decision was promised to be a levy swap. Instead, state school property taxes increased dramatically and local school taxes never went away and are again spiraling out of control.

For 2020-2021, for the district’s administrators, the median total compensation was \$176,705 with a high of \$215,860. Median teacher compensation is at \$127,214 up 32% in the last 3 years - multiple times inflation.

The argument that this levy is for a certain few duty types is disingenuous and heartless at best. The district complains that this levy fills the gap left from state legislators. The legislators are correct in saying no to the district. Local voters should do the same.

Nearly all districts try to just focus on how our property tax rates will remain nearly flat as if that has or will do us any favors. A flat tax rate multiplied by skyrocketing assessed property values equals skyrocketing taxes in dollars (paid for by property owners and renters in their rents). Please provide your input and vote. More details at, www.school-dataproject.com.

Written by

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SJC Public Hospital District No. 1

Proposition No. 1 - Renewal of Six-Year Emergency Medical Services Property Tax Levy

Will San Juan County Public Hospital District No. 1 be authorized to impose regular property tax levies of \$0.45 or less per \$1,000.00 of assessed valuation for six consecutive years?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Argument For

It’s time to renew the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) levy. EMS is funded by a six-year levy. The current levy expires at the end of 2022. Rather than wait until the November 2022 election, which is essentially the last minute, the Public Hospital District decided to put the renewal request on the February ballot. However, the new levy would not take effect until January 1, 2023.

When you call for emergency medical assistance you want to know that there will be a trained paramedic and an ambulance ready to respond. To ensure that will happen we must renew the EMS levy. The current levy was authorized at 50 cents per thousand five years ago but EMS is taking only 38 cents because of the increase in property values. The renewal levy is for 45 cents, an increase of 7 cents per thousand over the current levy. That means a property assessed at \$500,000 would see an increase of \$35 per year, a small price to save a life.

EMS is financially sound and providing excellent response to medical emergencies but, as you are probably aware, the cost of everything is going up and that’s particularly true of medications, medical supplies and the kinds of equipment EMS has to have. EMS has produced a detailed budget so that you can see exactly how the money will be spent and why the modest increase is necessary. The budget is available on the PHD Website at www.sjcphd.org.

Written by Renew SJIEMS

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Brian Moore

Explanatory Statement

Written by Richard Davis, Attorney for SJC Public Hospital District No. 1

The current six-year Emergency Medical Services Levy for San Juan County Public Hospital District No. 1 expires in 2021. This measure renews the six-year Emergency Medical Services Levy for six consecutive years. Funds raised by this EMS levy will only be used to provide emergency medical services, including related personnel costs, training for such personnel, and related equipment, supplies, vehicles, and structures needed for the provision of emergency medical services. The levy amount will be established at the rate of \$0.45 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation. Voter approval of Proposition No. 1 will provide funding for the District to continue to provide emergency medical services at current levels.

Argument Against

Voting *no* on another EMS levy will *not* stop emergency medical service.

What it *will* do is allow a single more effective organization to better protect our community with *lower* taxes.

The PHD board is not transparent. They claim 45 cents is less than a consolidation would cost but combining emergency services could be as low as 38 cents. They state if this levy is not passed there will be no more EMS services yet this is another false statement. They promised 24-hour staffing yet their paramedics still don’t respond from the station located in town where more than 50% of emergency calls occur.

PHDs lack of leadership and transparency shows: in 16 months they have lost 2 chiefs and 2/3 of their membership.

It’s time to consolidate emergency response into a single agency. That’s what a year-long ‘Citizen’s Advisory Group’, both Fire and PHD boards, current and past SJC EMS Medical Program Directors, and the majority of citizens have all agreed is best for our emergency services. Yet, this PHD board has rejected moving forward with consolidation, against the advice of many and direction from their constituents.

The advantages are numerous: lower taxes; integrated emergency services; improved response times; continuity of patient care; economy of scale savings; structural and financial stability.

No invention is required: there is already a plan for combined services under Fire that provides better coverage with full staffing for less taxes than EMS’s levy.

Vote *no* so we can have better emergency services.

Written by

Rebecca K. Smith, retired PHD, Fire Commissioner, EMT, Firefighter, rebecca@rocksland.com
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Your Signature Matters

Under Washington State law, the signature on your ballot return envelope must match the signature that's on your voter registration record for your ballot to be counted. That means we check every single signature on every single return envelope in every single election. Each election, about 1% of ballots are returned either without a signature or with a signature that doesn't quite match. Don't let that be you.

Here are a few tips to help make sure your signature passes the check and your ballot gets counted:

- If you register online, we pull your signature from the Dept. of Licensing, so check the signature on your driver's license or state ID and try to match that as closely as you can.
- Your signature does not need to be written in cursive or nicely or even legibly, it just needs to match the one that we already have on file. If you have a chicken scratch signature, that's okay! Just make sure you scratch it out the same way each time you vote.
- If you have no idea what signature you might have used or it's been a while and your signature has changed, you can always update your signature simply by returning an Update Signature Form. You can download the form at sanjuanco.com/elections under Voter Information. Returning an Update Signature Form will add your updated signature to your file. Return to Elections, PO Box 638, Friday Harbor, WA 98250 or email a scan to elections@sanjuanco.com.
- Track your ballot to ensure that it gets counted. If there's an issue with your signature, you'll see it there on the online ballot status. You'll find the ballot status at VoteWA.gov.



San Juan County Official Local Voters' Pamphlet February 8, 2022 Special



Local Jurisdictions Participating in this Election
SJI School District No. 149
SJC Public Hospital District No. 1

Cover photo: South Beach, San Juan Island, Courtesy Greg Lee, Resident

Register to Vote

Online

Log in to votewa.gov to register to vote or update your address. You must have a Washington State driver's license, permit, or ID card to register. Online registrations must be submitted no later than January 31 in order to process the registration for the February Special Election.

In person

The Elections office is open for registration 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, M-F, and 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day, February 8. In person registrations must be initiated no later than 8:00 pm on Election Day, February 8.

By mail

Print a voter registration form from sanjuanco.com/elections under Voter Information. Fill out the form and mail it to:

San Juan County Auditor
Elections Division
PO Box 638
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

San Juan County Elections must receive the mailed form by January 31 in order to process the registration for the February Special Election.

Update Registration

Keep your voter registration current

Update your registration if you have moved or changed your name. Simply update your information online at VoteWA.gov or submit a new paper registration form by January 31 for the February Special election or visit us in person. If your signature has changed, please submit a new Update Signature Form or come see us in person – updates to signatures may not be done online.

Accessible Voting

San Juan County voters with disabilities have the option of voting independently and privately using an accessible voting unit.

The accessible voting equipment will be available Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, beginning Friday, January 21, through February 8, and from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day, February 8.

Return Your Ballot

Ballot drop box

Return your ballot to a ballot drop box by 8:00 pm on Election Day, February 8:

San Juan County Elections Office
55 Second St., Ste. A, Friday Harbor
M-F 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Election Day 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

San Juan County Courthouse
Second St. Entrance, 350 Court St., Friday Harbor

In person

The Elections office is open 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, M-F, and 8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Election Day, February 8:

San Juan County Elections
55 Second St., Ste. A, Friday Harbor
(across from the Courthouse)

By mail

No stamp is needed! We recommend dropping your ballot in the mail by the Friday before Election Day to make sure it gets postmarked in time to be counted. Mailed ballots must be postmarked by February 8.

Replacement Ballots

Request a replacement ballot

- Contact SJC Elections as soon as possible:
Phone: 360-378-3357
Email: elections@sanjuanco.com
OR
- Print a replacement ballot:
Sign in to votewa.gov with your name/birthdate
Click MyBallot -> Online Ballot in the left column
Follow instructions to vote and return your ballot.

